

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of July 6, 2004 in which claims 1-4 and 6-33 were rejected. Since claim 5 was not rejected, and since claim 5 depends from claim 3, the limitations of claims 1 and 3 have been added to claim 5 and it is now an independent claim.

Regarding the novelty rejection of claims 1, 3, 26, and 28-33 as being anticipated by Vance et al., independent claims 1 and 33 have been amended to point out that the first type of user input is for entering alphanumeric data and the second type of user input is for operating the keypad as a touch sensitive pointing device.

Vance et al. only shows a sensor that indicates proximity of a user to the electronic device, whereupon the keys of the keypad are illuminated. In particular, when the distance between the user and the sensor is less than a predetermined threshold, the keypad is illuminated in anticipation of the user providing a keypad input to the electronic device.

Vance et al. does not show or even suggest an integrally disposed impedance sensor so as to provide a second type of user input for operating as a touch sensitive pointing device.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 3, 26, and 28-33 is requested.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 2, 4, 8-11, 14, 17-21 and 27 as being unpatentably obvious over Vance et al. in view of Gerpheide et al. (US 6, 680,731), Gerpheide et al. does not show an integrally disposed impedance sensor so as to provide a second type of user input for operating the keyboard as a touch sensitive pointing device as claimed in claim 1 from which all of the rejected claims depend. Rather, Gerpheide et al. show a way to extend plastic sheets on which electrical traces are disposed for the keys outwards in some direction so the touchpad traces can also be disposed thereon.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 2, 4, 8-11, 14, 17-21 and 27 is requested.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claim 6 and 7 as being unpatentably obvious over Vance et al. in view of Nishi, neither Vance et al. nor Nishi show an integrally disposed impedance sensor so as to provide a second type of user input for operating the keypad as a touch sensitive pointing device as claimed in claim 1 from which the rejected claims 6 and 7 depend.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 6 and 7 is requested.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of claims 12, 15, 22-25 as being unpatentably obvious over Vance et al. in view of Gerpheide et al. as applied to claim 10, and further in view of Schmiz et al., it is noted that the Schmiz reference fails as a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)/103(a) reference because its US filing date from PCT Application filed June 8, 2001 is later than the UK priority date of the present application, i.e., October 3, 2000.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection of claims 12, 15 and 22-25 is requested. Please note that claims 12, 15 and 22 are now presented in independent form.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentably obvious over Vance et al., in view of Gerpheide et al. as applied to claim 10, and further in view of Maeda et al.

Maeda fails to show an integrally disposed impedance sensor so as to provide a second type of user input for operating the keypad as a touch sensitive pointing device as claimed in independent claim 1 from which claim 13 depends via claims 9 and 10.

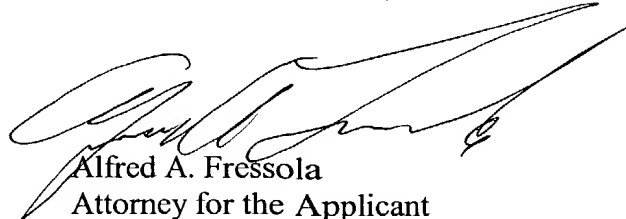
Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection of claim 13 is requested.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) rejection of claim 16 as being unpatentably obvious over Vance et al. in view of Gerpheide et al. as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Hayashi et al., it is noted that the Hayashi et al. reference fails as a proper §102(e) /103(a) reference because its earliest US filing date is January 30, 2001 which was after the UK priority date of October 3, 2000 of the present application.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 16 is requested.
Please note that claim 16 is now presented in independent form.

The objections and rejections of the Office Action of July 6, 2004, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of claims 1-35 to issue is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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